



ENERGY STAR and the South Carolina Energy Office Introduce Program for Dormitories and Residence Halls for South Carolina Colleges and Universities

- Colleges and universities spend close to \$2 billion nationally each year on energy, with residence halls and dormitories accounting for a large percentage of the expenditures.
- Adopting a strategic approach to dormitory and residence hall energy management can lower energy bills by 30% or more.

ENERGY STAR has implemented a new program that empowers colleges and universities with a new benchmarking tool to rate the energy performance of residence halls and earn the **ENERGY STAR** on dormitories, including fraternity and sorority housing, across the nation. The program also includes a new financial assistance tool. Colleges and universities can enter a year's worth of energy data and other information to determine how their dorms score in relation to other dorms nationwide. Each building is scored on its energy performance on a scale of 1 to 100. Buildings that score a 75 or above are eligible to apply for the **ENERGY STAR**, a large bronze label signifying top energy performance. This entire performance rating process is conducted in a step-by-step manner online through a system called the Portfolio

Manager, and is accessed directly via **ENERGY STAR's** link at: www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=evaluate_performance.bus_portfolioportfoliomanager.

This website offers a "Portfolio Manager Tour" for an overview of features of the program, including:

- **Benchmarking:** Rate the performance of your buildings on a scale of 1-100 relative to similar buildings nationwide using **ENERGY STAR's** national energy performance rating system.
- **Energy data management features**
- **Investment priorities**
- **Verification.** This includes generating a Statement of Energy Performance for each building, summarizing important energy information and building characteristics.
- This web page also provides detailed information on the related tools, Target Finder and the Delta Score Estimator.
- Other features on this page include a Service and Product Provider Directory that provides a listing of **ENERGY STAR** products and a Directory of Energy Efficiency Programs.

In addition, **ENERGY STAR** recently developed the Cash Flow Opportunity (CFO) Calculator, a spreadsheet-based resource that provides precise answers to questions about energy efficiency investments including the amount of equipment that can be purchased from savings and the comparative advantages

of immediate versus delayed investment. Available online at the [ENERGY STAR](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=business.bus_financing) website at www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=business.bus_financing, the CFO calculator is especially designed for the accounting needs of public sector and educational institutions.

Additional information on funding assistance includes:

- Finding Money for Your Energy Efficiency Projects, a primer provided by [ENERGY STAR](http://www.energystar.gov).
- [ENERGY STAR](http://www.energystar.gov) and Easy Access to Energy Improvement Funds brochure.

Creating an [ENERGY STAR](http://www.energystar.gov) Showcase Dorm Room

Colleges and universities are uniquely positioned to introduce awareness of [ENERGY STAR](http://www.energystar.gov) into a student's first experience of furnishing his or her own "home." A creative approach to encourage residents in student housing to use [ENERGY STAR](http://www.energystar.gov) products is to create an [ENERGY STAR](http://www.energystar.gov) Showcase Dorm Room. Its first audience is students, but it also captures the attention of anyone interested in college life. Once it's set up, you have an easy education tool for an entire academic year (unlike an event, which is a one-time education and publicity opportunity). The room by itself saves a moderate amount of electricity, but the project's emphasis is the "ripple effect" of how much the school could save if every dorm room on campus used [ENERGY STAR](http://www.energystar.gov) products.

Purpose

The project has two objectives:

1. To demonstrate the energy savings potential of [ENERGY STAR](http://www.energystar.gov) labeled products in a dorm room setting; and
2. To educate the staff, students, alumni, other universities, and the general public on the what, where, and how of purchasing [ENERGY STAR](http://www.energystar.gov) labeled products.

More detailed information on this program can be found at: www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=higher_ed.bus_dormroom.

The Portfolio Manager, financial assistance program, and the Showcase Dorm Room project are offerings that complement the full assortment of resources available to all [ENERGY STAR](http://www.energystar.gov) partners.

The Role of the South Carolina Energy Office

With the South Carolina Energy Office being a key state government [ENERGY STAR](http://www.energystar.gov) Partner, the Dormitory and Residence Hall energy management program will enable the Energy Office to forge [ENERGY STAR](http://www.energystar.gov) partnerships with the state's 13 public colleges/universities that have residential housing/dormitories, as well as with private institutions of higher learning. This program will allow the development of a cooperative triad relationship among the Energy Office, the [ENERGY STAR](http://www.energystar.gov) program, and the participating colleges and universities.

By taking the lead in this program, the South Carolina Energy Office will be fulfilling its mission of promoting energy efficiency in an environmentally-friendly way, while assisting students, faculty, and staff on learning about the economic benefits of energy efficiency, as well as their school's commitment to the environment.

For further information on this program please contact:

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